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GRICULTURAL LIBRARIES INFORMATION NOTES

ISSN: 0095-2699

AN AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION NETWORK

Jan Kennedy, Chief Lending Branch, Library Operations Division TIS/SEA/USDA

In November 1979, Technical Information Systems (TIS) spons or ed an Agricultural Information Conference. It provided a discussion forum for exploring the information needs of agriculturalists and ways in which cooperative systems make possible the integration of state and local information sources. The Conference program dedicated one morning to the subject Cooperative Library Systems and presented the opportunity to address a cooperative library system which has been long in the making and is probably the most fundamental of all, a national agricultural sciences information network.

Over the years a great deal of thinking, discussion, and work have been done toward development of the network. The desirability of such a network has been forcefuly reaffirmed by commitment of Congress to the concept. The following brief chronology gives an idea of the activity to this time.

- -1967 Planning for the network began when NAL contracted with EDUCOM (Interuniversity Communications Council) giving them the charge "to develop basic plans for an Agricultural Sciences Information Network."
- -1970 To assist EDUCOM, the Division of Agriculture of the National Association of State University and Land-Grant Colleges appointed an advisory committee of researchers, educators, and policy makers in the agricultural and food sciences

 "to develop a plan for an effective system for the retrieval, analysis and dissemination of agricultural science information."
- -1971 After one year of study the Committee made its recommendations and discussed the network concept with the agricultural community. The need was identified and recommendation made for "the immediate establishment of an Agricultural Libraries Network."
- -1975 During this period several papers were written producing discussion on the most advantageous, needed, and practical functions of the network. A view was put forth of how an integrated network might appear.
- -1976 For fiscal year 1976, Dr. Richard
 A. Farley, Administrator
 (NETWORK, Continued on page 2)

(NETWORK, Continued from page 1)

of Technical Information Systems (TIS), gave testimony during the hearings before a subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives. In his concluding remarks he re-stressed earlier points which he had made:

"The original mission statement of 1862 directed the collection and dissemination of useful information on agricultural subjects. Rather than attempting to become a complete and exhaustive storehouse of all agricultural knowledge, NAL will rely on a network system or partnership with other agricultural libraries both in the public and private sectors to create a cohesive nation-wide collection of agricultural information. We seek with this appropriation request your understanding support."

-1977 On September 29 the President signed the Food and Agriculture

Act of 1977. Section 1411 of this act entitled "Libraries and Information Network" mandates the implementation of the long planned and hoped for information network.

NAL brought in Charles Gilreath, Texas A&M University Libraries on a short-term basis to give new thinking to the network in light of today's somewhat changed needs. He produced working documents which confirmed the need for a network, described some possible network functions and provided a methodology for getting the best possible ideas together on setting the wheels in motion to make the network a reality.

A session of the Agricultural Information Conference, November 1979, provided the opportunity to discuss the network, specificially the methodology for gathering cooperation from throughout the U.S. to get the network off the drawing board and into existence.

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-1979

-1978

One methodology selected was a series of regional conferences throughout the country—each conference to address pre-identified issues such as the structure, functions, and governance of an agricultural science information network.

Discussion was directed at how such conferences should be set up; five questions were considered:

- 1. For the purpose of establishing regional conferences to discuss issues relating to national net working, how should the regions be identified?
- 2. Given that the objective of a cooperative national information network should be directed to the improved awareness and utilization of agricultural and food sciences information by scientists, policy makers, and the general public, who should attend the regional

- conferences? How many participants would be desirable?
- 3. Who should be responsible for organizing the regional conferences, formatting the program, and distributing the publicity?
- 4. What issues would you like to see addressed?
- 5. What kind of feedback should be returned to TIS/NAL following the conferences?

Responses to the questions were prepared by four groups and their thinking is summarized here.

1. For the purpose of regional conferences to discuss issues relating (NETWORK, Continued on page 3)

(NETWORK, Continued from page 2)
to national networking, how should
the regions be identified?
Possible region configurations
suggested were:

- a. Experiment station/Extension service regions;
- b. Document Delivery System regions;
- c. Demographically based regions;
- d. Regions created according to strength in bibliographic resources;
- e. Agricultural commodity subject groups;
- f. Regions by interest group, e.g. arid lands, tropical and subtropical agriculture and forestry;
- g. U.S. Government regional configuration.

There was concern expressed that maximum participation should be encouraged and that this would be assisted by minimizing travel.

2. Given that the objective of a cooperative national information network should be directed to the improved awareness and utilization of agricultural and food sciences information by scientists, policy makers, and the general public, who should attend the regional conferences? How many participants would be desirable?

Optimum size was considered to be no more than 100 people. It was thought important that within large institutions such as land-grant universities no single person should be chosen as representative and sole spokesman, a diversity of opinion being essential to the success of the whole venture. In addition to this concept, it was also stressed that the gamut of people involved in the agricultural information enterprise should be involved including

Administrators
 Agricultural College Deans
 Directors of Libraries
 State Legislators
 Director of State Library
 Information Managers (the majority should be Information Managers)

 Organized public interest groups, power groups or lobbyists used by Extension agents

.Users

Farmers
Agricultural College
Students and Faculty
Field USDA personnel

3. Who should be responsible for organizing the regional conferences, formatting the program, and distributing the publicity?

It was agreed that TIS should take responsibility for identifying the regions, the regional steering committees, and the host institutions. The committees would format the programs to allow enough time to explore their own unique interests and concerns but would work from general guidelines, basic information, support, and agenda items developed by TIS. The committees would also distribute their own publicity.

4. What issues would you like to see addressed? List five in priority order.

With one exception the same five issues were the top five in each group although they varied a little in priority order. The aggregate of opinion identified the following issues and ranked them as indicated.

a. Goals and objectives of the network established after identifying the needs and priorities of the region.
(NETWORK, Continued on page 4)

- b. Funding generating a strong, continuing commitment of resources to the network.
- b. Organization, structure, participant roles, and governance of the network.
- d. Identification of the benefit and rewards of the system to the various participants.
- e. Education and training in agricultural information both for those disseminating it and for potential consumers.
- 5. What kind of feedback should be returned to TIS/NAL following the conference?

It was recommended that reports should be written during the conferences, being the responsibility of the steering committee. The reports would include decisions made by regional conference participants, suggestions, requests, and any other information about that region necessary to make the network succeed. The reports would be used to structure a national conference to effect a synthesis.

Formation of the Agricultural Information Network is obviously an evolutionary process. It is intended that the ideas reported here should contribute to that process and to that end will be included in a discussion of the development of the network with the Joint Council on Food and Agriculture. This Advisory Council to the Secretary of Agriculture exists to foster coordination of the agricultural research, extension and teaching activities of the Federal Government, the States, colleges and universities, and other public and private institutions and persons involved in the food and agricultural sciences. Membership of the Joint Council is listed on page 5. De

ELECTRONIC MAIL SYSTEM

Under a national electronic mail system network developed by SEA's TIS and Extension units, a new type of rapid communication will soon be possible among State Extension offices and between State and Federal offices. The system provides for the instantaneous delivery of hard copy messages that are typed, stored, and accessed through computer terminals. Successfully pilot tested in 22 states last year, the system will begin operating nationally this fall. Significant applications of the system have already been made. There was a response within 36 hours to an urgent request for information on Extension energy projects and quick delivery of information to State Extension directors about the progress of critical budget legislation and hearing developments. The system has also been used to speed up the approval of work plans and to provide information for regional meetings. In one case, a paper was jointly authored using the system. In addition to its usefulness in administering day-to-day operations of State Extension offices and information gathering, the system has the capability of communicating with word processors, providing the ability to transmit formal communications in finished form.

The project coordinator for Technical Information Systems is Jerry Paulsen, Information Systems Division, TIS/SEA/USDA, NAL Bldg., Beltsville, Md. 20705.



NEW PUBLICATIONS OF NOTE

Another Revolution in U.S. Farming? Washington, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service, 1979. (Agricultural Economic Report 441). 445 p. \$6.50. Available from Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Stock No. 001-000-04094-4.

- *Conversion of Tropical Moist Forests. Prepared for the Committee on Research Priorities in Tropical Biology; Division of Biological Sciences, Assembly of Life Sciences, National Research Council. Washington, D.C., National Academy of Sciences, 1980, 214 p. \$12.50. ISBN 0-309-02945-7.
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- *Energy Choices in a Democratic Society (Study of Nuclear and Alternative Energy Systems, Supporting Paper 7). Consumption, Location, and Occupational Patterns Resource Group, Synthesis Panel, Committee on Nuclear and Alternative Energy Systems; National Research Council. Washington, D.C., National Academy of Sciences, 1980. 153 p., \$6.50. ISBN 0-309-03045-4.

The Directory for Invertebrate Pathology 1980. Columbus. Department of Entomology, The Ohio State University, The World Health Organization Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases, and The Society for

Invertebrate Pathology. n.d. \$5.00 postpaid. Copies may be purchased from John D. Briggs, Department of Entomology, The Ohio State University, 1735 Neil Avenue, Columbus, OH 43210.

Fungicides for Control of Foliar, Pod, and Stem Diseases of Soubeans. Fayetteville, Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Arkansas, 1980. (Report Series 250). Free. Apply to AES.

Small-Scale Fuel Alcohol Production. Washington, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, prepared in cooperation with Development, Planning, and Research Associates, Inc. March 1980. 243 p. \$6.00. Order from Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. Stock No. 001-000-04124-0.

Documents marked with an asterisk () are available from the Office of Publications, National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20418.

MEMBERS OF THE JOINT COUNCIL ON FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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CAPITOL HILL LEGISLATION



Agricultural Research. H.R. 7557. Provides grants to States to assist colleges to strengthen their capacity for food and agricultural research through the purchase of equipment, land, planning, construction, alteration or renovation of buildings. Would provide \$5 million annually for fiscal years 1981 through 1985 on a matching basis.

Animal Cancer Research Act. S. 2043. Authorizes appropriation of funds to the Department of Agriculture for the conduct of basic research on cancer in animals and birds. Research would be conducted at appropriate facilities or by grants to qualified research facilities. Provides for consultation and coordination of animal cancer research between the Department and the National Institutes of Health. Authorizes \$25 million for FY 1981. Referred to House Agriculture Committee May 28, 1980.

Food Security Act of 1980. H.R. 6635. Establishes a Government-owned wheat reserve of up to four million metric tons to assist in meeting emergency food needs in developing countries during periods when U.S. wheat supplies are in such short supply that enough wheat is not available for existing U.S. food aid programs abroad. Bill allows up to 300,000 tons of this reserve to be used in any fiscal year for urgent humanitarian relief in a developing country which suffers a major disaster, when normal means of obtaining food aid do not allow timely shipment. Reported from Agriculture Committee June 25, 1980; Rept. 96-966, pt. II.

National Science Foundation Authorization and Women in Science Act. S. 568 $[H.R.\ 7115]$. Promotes the full use of human resources in science and technology through a comprehensive program to maximize the potential contribution and advancement of women in scientific, professional, and technical careers. Senate passed $S.\ 568$ amended in the nature of a substitute, as amended, June 23, 1980.

National Wilderness Preservation System. H.R. 5341. Provides for the wilderness designation of certain lands within the Ocala National Forest, the Osceola National Forest, and the Apalachicola National Forest. Adds approximately 130,340 acres to the National Wilderness Preservation System. The bill also adjusts the boundaries of the existing Florida Keys wilderness and contains provisions relating to applications for phosphate leases in the Osceola National Forest, Florida. Bill referred to House Agriculture June 12, 1980, for a period ending June 30, 1980.

Synthetic Fuels. S. 932 [H.R. 39307]. Authorizes appropriation of \$20 million dollars for synthetic fuels development, to be managed by a synthetic fuels corporation. Includes \$14 billion for gasohol, conservation, solar energy, and other programs. The \$20 billion in funding for synfuels was included in H.R. 4930, the Interior and Energy Appropriations bill, which became Public Law 96-126 approved November 27, 1979. Approved June 30, 1980. Public Law 96-294.

NEW SERIALS RECEIVED AT NAL





AUSTRALIAN CHAROLAIS NEWS. Sydney,
N.S.W., Charolais Society of Australia.
1979SF199.C5C6
Formerly Charolais Newsletter.

AUSTRALIAN FOREST INDUSTRIES JOURNAL & AUSTRALIAN LOGGER. Sydney, Vol. 45, no. 8, 1979- 99.81 Au7 Formerly Australian Forest Industries Journal.

BEHAVIORAL AND NEURAL BIOLOGY. New York, Academic Press. Vol. 25, no. 1, 1979- QH301.C63 Formerly Behavioral Biology.

BIOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS/RRM. Philadelphia, Biosciences Information Service. Vol. 18, no. 1, 1980-241.7 B523

Formerly Bioresearch Index.

CALCIFIED TISSUE INTERNATIONAL.

Berlin, New York, Springer International. Vol. 27, no. 1, 1979-QP88.C3

Formerly Calcified Tissue Research.

DAIRY FIELD. New York, Magazines for Industry. Vol. 162, no. 10, 1979—389.8 lc2 Formerly Dairy & Ice Cream Field.

DIGESTIVE DISEASES AND SCIENCES. New York, Plenum Pub. Corp. Vol. 24, no. 1, 1979- RC799 .A63 Formerly American Journal of Digestive Diseases.

ECOLOGY ABSTRACTS. London, Information Retrieval Ltd. Vol. 6, no. 1, 1980-QH540.A23 Formerly Applied Ecology Abstracts.

ECONOMIC FORUM. Salt Lake City, Economic Forum. Vol. 10, no. 1, 1979-HB1.A115 Formerly Intermountain Economic Review. ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION. Series A:
Ecological and Biological. London,
Applied Science Publishers. Vol. 21,
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Superseded in part: Environmental
Pollution.

EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF CELL BIOLOGY.

Stuttgart, Wissenschaftliche
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Formerly Cytobiologie.

GRASS AND FORAGE SCIENCE. Oxford,
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IMMUNOBIOLOGY. Stuttgart, New York, Fischer. Vol. 156, 1979— QR180.Z4 Formerly Zeitschrift fur Immunitats-forschung Immunobiologie.

JOURNAL OF CHEMICAL TECHNOLOGY AND BIOTECHNOLOGY. Oxford, Blackwell Scientific Publications for Society of Industry. Vol. 29, no. 1, 1979
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(SERIALS, Continued on page 9)

NEW BIBLIOGRAPHIES

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Annotated Bibliography of "Soil Bureau Publications" 401-600. Compiled by J. E. Davin and N. E. Weston. (New Zealand Soil Bureau Bibliographic Report 17). [Wellington], Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. 1979. 115 p. 200 citations. Price unavailable. (NAL call no.: Z5074.57N).

"Art Out-of-Doors," American Gardens 1890-1930: A Selected Bibliography. Compiled by Julia Finette Davis. Pittsburgh, The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, Carnegie-Mellon University. 1979. 16 p. Approx. 112 citations. Order from: Publisher, Pittsburgh, PA 15213, Price: \$3.00 prepaid. (NAL call no.: Z5996.A1D3).

Biology of the Arabian Peninsula: A Bibliographic Study. Compiled by Mohammed Ataur Rahim. (Saudi Biological Society. Publication no. 3). [Riyadh, Saudi Arabia], Saudi Biological Society. 1979. 180 p. Approx. 2,000 citations. Price unavailable. (NAL call no. Z5320.R3).

Genetic Engineering. Compiled by
Katherine Murray. (U.S. Library of
Congress. Science and Technology
Division. LC Science Tracer Bullet, TB
78-8). Washington, Library of Congress, Science and Technology
Division, Reference Section. 1979.
11 p. Approx. 75 citations. Order
from: Publisher, 10 First Street, S.E.,
Washington, D.C. 20540. Free. (NAL
call no.: Z5322.G4M8).

Spruce Budworms Bibliography. Compiled by Daniel T. Jennings, Fred B. Knight, Susanne C. Hacker, and M. E. McKnight. (Maine. Life Science and Agriculture Experiment Station. Miscellaneous Report, no. 213). Orono, School of

Forest Resources, University of Maine.

April 1979. 687 p. Approx. 1,500

with abstracts. Order from: U.S.

Forest Service, USDA Building,

University of Maine, Orono, ME 04469,

Attn: D. Jennings. Free. (NAL call
no.: 100 M28M).



Clearance has been granted to USDA authors to publish the following bibliographies:

An Annotated Bibliography of Surface Wind Velocity Literature Relating to Forest Fire Behavior Studies. Compiled by Robert G. Baughman. For information contact: Thomas M. Baugh, Leader, Research Information Group, USDA Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, 507 - 25th Street, Ogden, UT 84401.

Cavity-Nesting Birds: A Bibliography. Compiled by William C. Fischer. For information contact: Compiler, USDA Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, Northern Forest Fire Laboratory, Drawer G, Missoula, MT 59806.

Input Markets in U.S. Agriculture: A
Bibliography of Selected Economic
Studies, 1950-1980. Compiled by
Thomas Spinks and Dale C. Dahl. For
information contact: Neal Holland
Duncan, ESCS Information, USDA, Room
1660 South Bidg., Washington, D.C. 20250.



QUICK BIBLIOGRAPHY SERIES

The bibliographies in this series are primarily computerized online or batch bibliographies emanating from searches performed by the IIS Reference Staff in response to customer requests.

Searches are selected for inclusion based on the currency of the topic, interest among clientele, relative length (approximately 150 citations or more) and probable value to a larger audience. All titles in this series will be listed for six months. Revisions or updates will be renumbered and reannounced. Only one copy of a title will be sent; however, requestors may make copies. To request a copy of a Quick Bibliography send the title, series number, and a return addressed label to:

Reference Branch Technical Information Systems, SEA, USDA NAL Bldg., Room 302 Beltsville, MD 20705

NAL-BIBL. 80-05. Irrigation Scheduling, 1969-1979. 192 citations from AGRICOLA. Search by Jayne T. MacLean. April 1980.

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Vol. 26, no. 1, 1980- SB950.A1P3
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AGRICULTURAL TRANSLATIONS



Technical Information Systems reviews titles before translations are made in order to avoid duplication within USDA. We also receive copies on deposit often far in advance of their listings in the standard bibliographic tools. This column is an alert to selected new receipts at TIS. These items are available to USDA personnel upon presentation of a loan request (AD-245) with the identification: TRANS. No. along with the citation. Non-USDA persons may request photo-duplication at the rate of \$2 for each 10 pages or fraction thereof per citation. TRANS. No. MUST be on the request. Both types of requests should be sent to:

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The Technical Translation Number-will also be cited for those translations prepared for the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the National Science Foundation under the P.L. 480 program. Copies of these translations may also be ordered from the National Translation Center, John Crerar Library, 35 West 33rd Street. Chicago, IL 60616.

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- KOVAL¹CUK, L. M. The Influence of Technology on the Strength of Bonded Wood Structures. Translated from German: Holztechnologie, 20 (1): 11-17, 1979. TRANS. No. 22518.

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- SHIPILOV, V. S. The Bioelectrical Activity of the Uterus of Sheep. Translated from Russian: Veterina-riya, 1: 90-93, 1977. TRANS. No. 25258.
- YEE-MEILER M. Phenols as Indicators of Metabolic Disturbances in Forest Trees Exposed to Atmospheric Fluoride Pollutants. Translated from German:

 Mitt. Eidg. Anst. Forstl Versuchswes,
 53 (4): 201-229, 1977. TRANS. No.
 25499. TT 80-58027.

10

AGRICULTURE DATEBOOK



September 15-19: INTERNATIONAL
SEMINAR ON ENERGY CONSERVATION AND
THE USE OF SOLAR AND OTHER RENEWABLE ENERGIES IN AGRICULTURE,
HORTICULTURE AND FISHCULTURE.
London, England. Contact: Frederick
Vogt, Polytechnic of Central London,
35 Marylebone Rd., London NW1 4LS,
England (COMM 01-486-5811, ext. 284).

September 21-26: 1st LATIN AMERICAN LIBRARIANSHIP AND DOCUMENTATION CONGRESS. Salvador-Bahia, Brazil. Contact: Noreth Calmon de Cerqueira Ribeiro, Bibliotecaria CRB 5/103, Secretaria Executiva, Av. Antonio Carlos Magalhaes, s/n-Pituba, PETROBRAS/ SEN-BA, Salvador-Bahia-Brasil.

October 20-22: SYMPOSIUM ON RURAL POLICY AND FARM STRUCTURE. Ames, la., lowa State University. Sponsored by the University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Farm Foundation, and the Policy Studies Organization. Contact: Don F. Hadwiger, Dept. of Political Science, lowa State University, Ames, IA 50011.

November 17-21: 9th PAMAMERICAN SEMINAR ON SEEDS. Buenos Aires, Argentina. Contact: Secretaria Administrativa, Corrientes 127-5° Pisco-Of. 513 (1043) Buenos Aires, Republica Argentina.

November 30-December 6: ARID LAND RESOURCE INVENTORIES, DEVELOPING COST-EFFICIENT METHODS. La Paz, Mexico. Sponsored by IUFRO Forest Resource Inventory Subject Group, SAF Inventory Working Group, Subsecretariat of Forest & Wildlife, Mexico, Mexican Association of

Professional Foresters (AMPF), USDA Forest Service, USDI Bureau of Land Management. Contact: H. Gyde Lund, Program Chairman, USDA Forest Service RMF & RES, 240 W. Prospect St., Ft. Collins, CO 80526.

December 1-2: ASAE CONFERENCE ON CROP PRODUCTION WITH CONSERVATION IN THE 80's. Palmer House, Chicago, IL. Contact: John C. Siemans, Chairman, Conference on Crop Production with Conservation in the 80's, Agricultural Engineering Department, Univ. of Illinois, Urbana, IL 61801 (telephone: 217-333-2854).

APOLOGIES TO MONTANA

The state of Montana was inadvertently omitted from the map illustrating the article "U.S.D.A. Regional Document Delivery System" published in ALIN, vol. 6, no. 3, March 1980. Montana is part of the North Central Region.



AGRICULTURAL LIBRARIES INFORMATION
NOTES provides a channel of communication to technical information specialists, librarians, extension workers, researchers, and scientists on agricultural information activities. It is published monthly by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Science and Education Administration, Technical Information Systems, National Agricultural Library Building, Beltsville, MD 20705. Leila Moran, Editor.

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